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Transportation Planning in Tribal Communities: From Plan Development to Implementation

Cole Grisham

ederal Highway Administration (FHWA) Western Federal Lands

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Transportation Planning in Tribal Communities

From Plan Development to Implementation



Project Team

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(Project Champion)

Manuel Sanchez, OTT, Tribal Coordinator

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Environmental Program Specialist

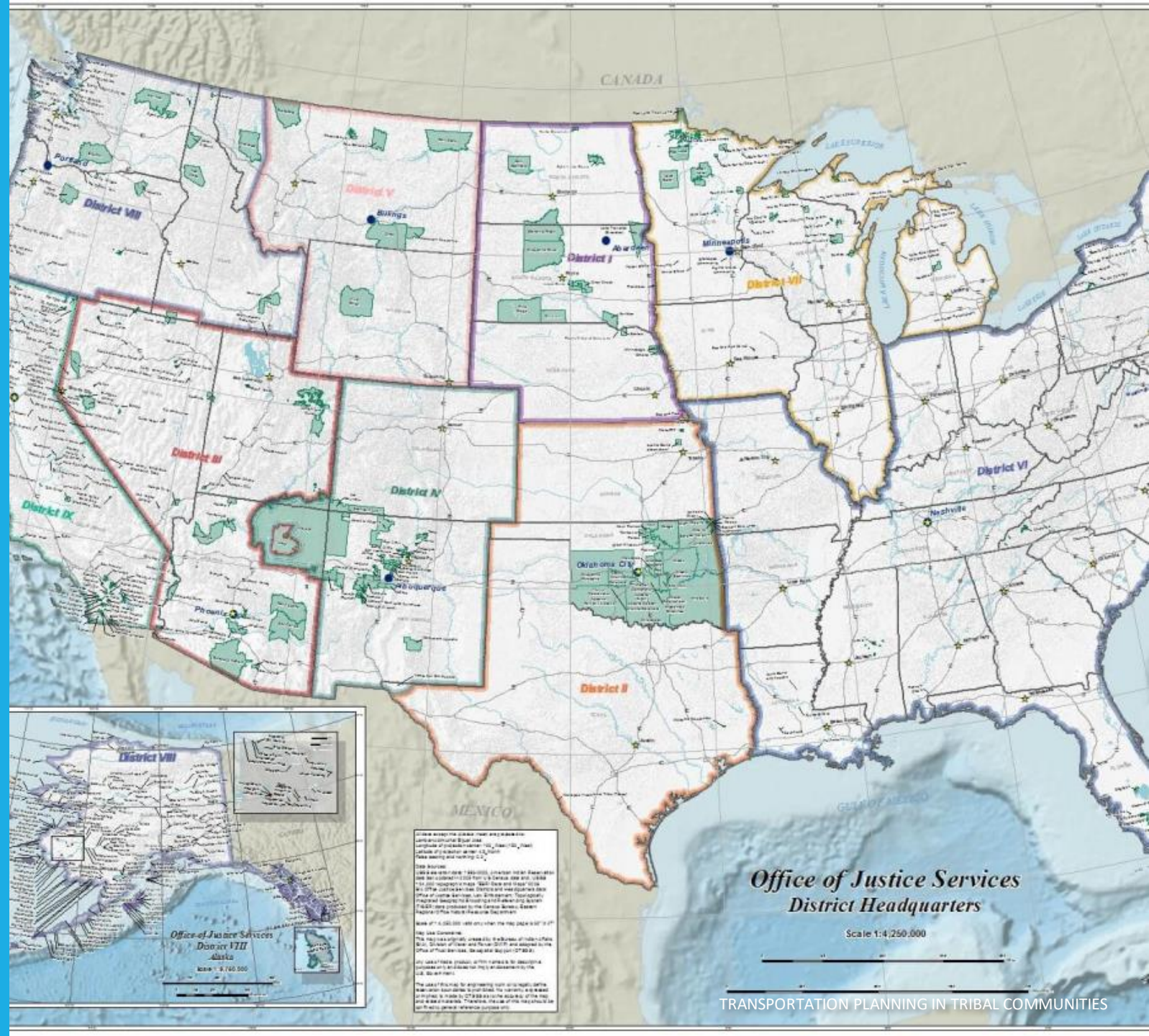
Jared Fijalkowski, Volpe, Community Planner
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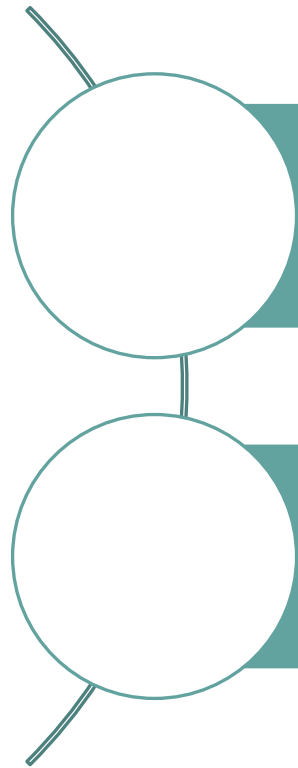
Tribal Transportation

Regulation: 23 U.S. Code § 202 - Tribal transportation program

FHWA Office of Tribal Transportation Mission: Through mutual respect and understanding, enhance the quality of life in Tribal communities by supporting the Tribes' delivery of transportation programs

BIA Transportation Mission: To provide for and assist tribes in the development of their capacity to plan, construct and maintain safe and efficient transportation networks.

Initial Proposal



Existing planning tools do not always align with tribal community context and needs

It is not always clear what benefits planning provides to transportation project selection and delivery in tribal communities.

Research Questions



How do Tribal long range transportation plans inform the decisions Tribal planners and their leadership make following post plan development?



What tools “best” inform plan development for Tribal planners?

What does planning offer?

- **Planning's purpose:** To enable a community to respond to problems and opportunities in the future rather than reacting.
- **This study's purpose:** To ensure Tribes have the right tools to conduct effective planning as described above, respecting community context and constraints.

Research Goals

1

1.Align planning tools to Tribal planning needs

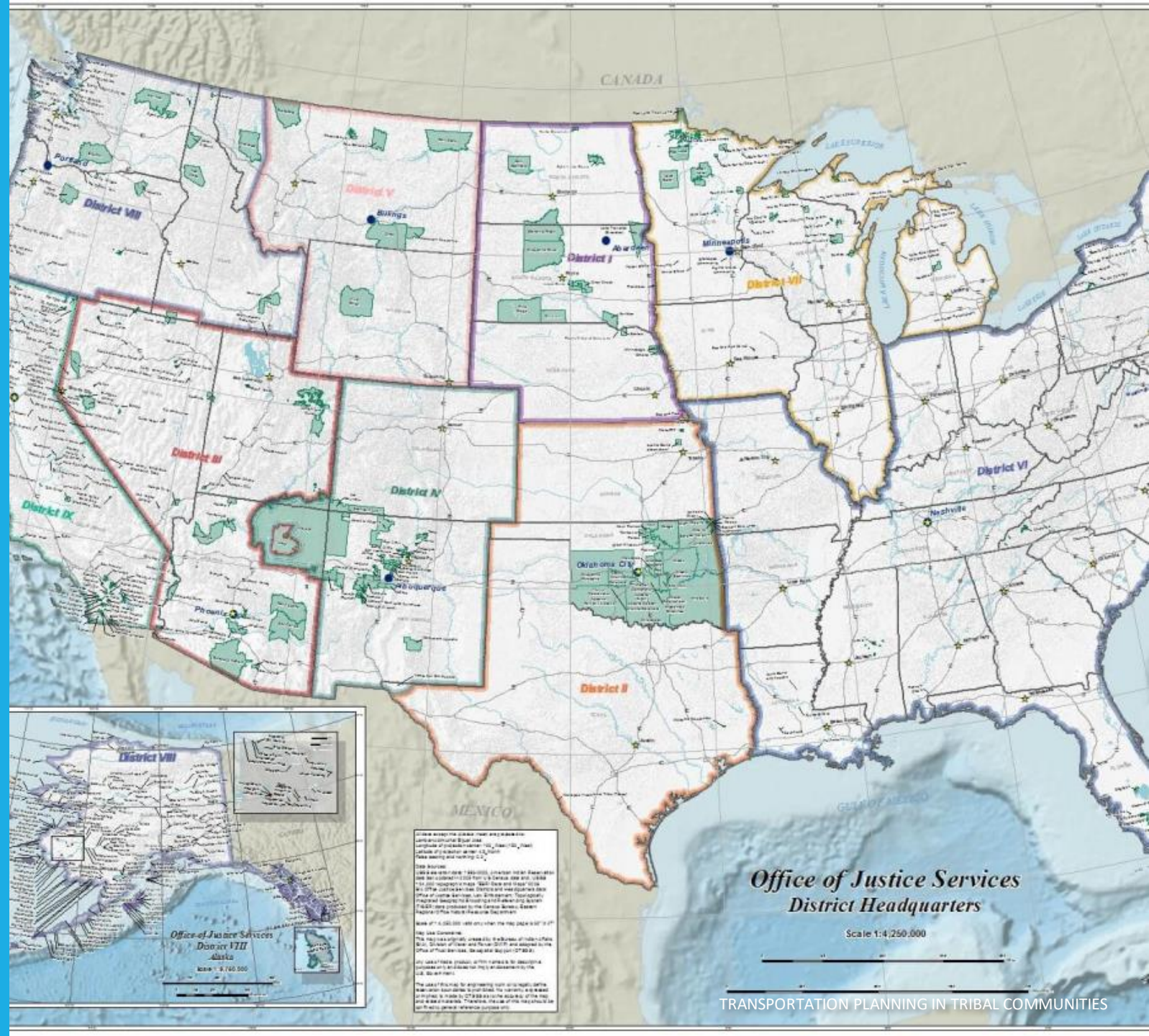
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1.Ensure long-range transportation plans are implementable by Tribal staff

3

Link planning phase to project design, construction, and maintenance

Research Process



Process



LITERATURE
REVIEW



METHODS



DATA
COLLECTION



TOOLS
DEVELOPMENT



REPORT



DISSEMINATE
FINDINGS

Process



LITERATURE
REVIEW



METHODS



DATA
COLLECTION



TOOLS
DEVELOPMENT



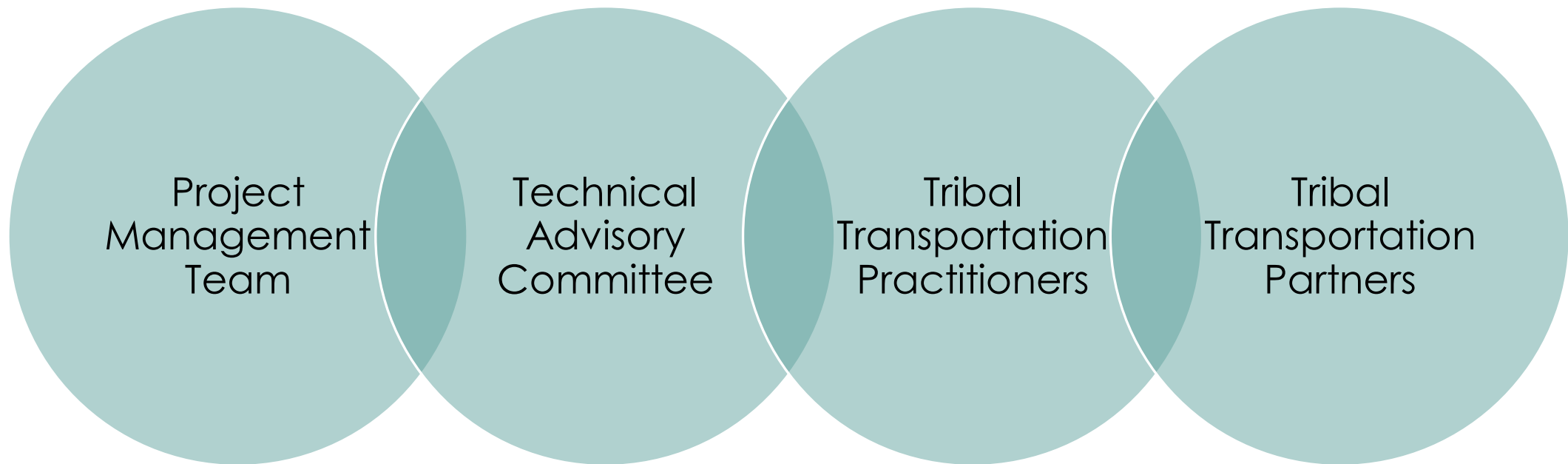
REPORT



DISSEMINATE
FINDINGS

Tribal Engagement

Engagement: Who is Involved and Why?



Literature review

What did we find?

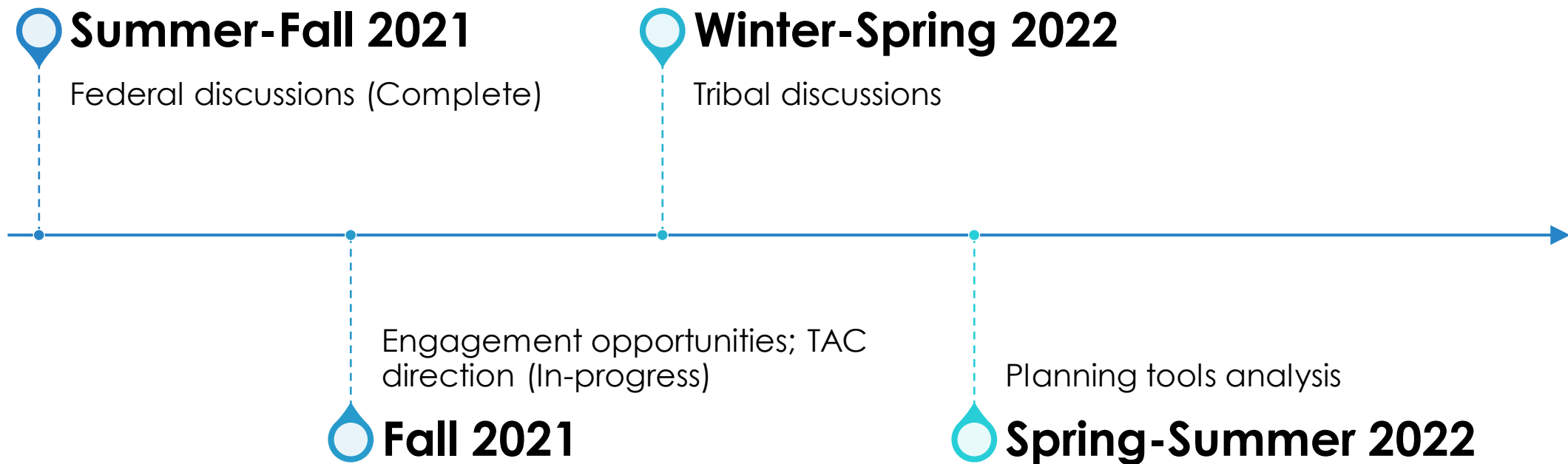
- Applicable laws and regulations
- Tools that already exist
- Basic planning process
- Tribal priorities
- Gaps and next steps
- **TAC Feedback**

Methods

What we developed

- Interview and discussion approach
- Series of structured questions and topics
- Categorization of interviewees
- Limitations
- Expected outcomes
- **TAC Feedback**

Data Collection



How do you envision your transportation system in 5 years? 10 years? 20 years?



Preliminary Findings -- so far, mostly refinements

01

Focus on
Post-Plan
decision
points

02

Clarify LRTP
and TTIP
developme
nt and use

03

Understand
Tribal data
collection
and use

04

Synthesize
and apply
financial
planning
resources

05

Synthesize
and apply
existing
resources

06

Engage with
identified
Tribes for
discussion

Engaging Tribes in Discussions

Identifying Tribes to include

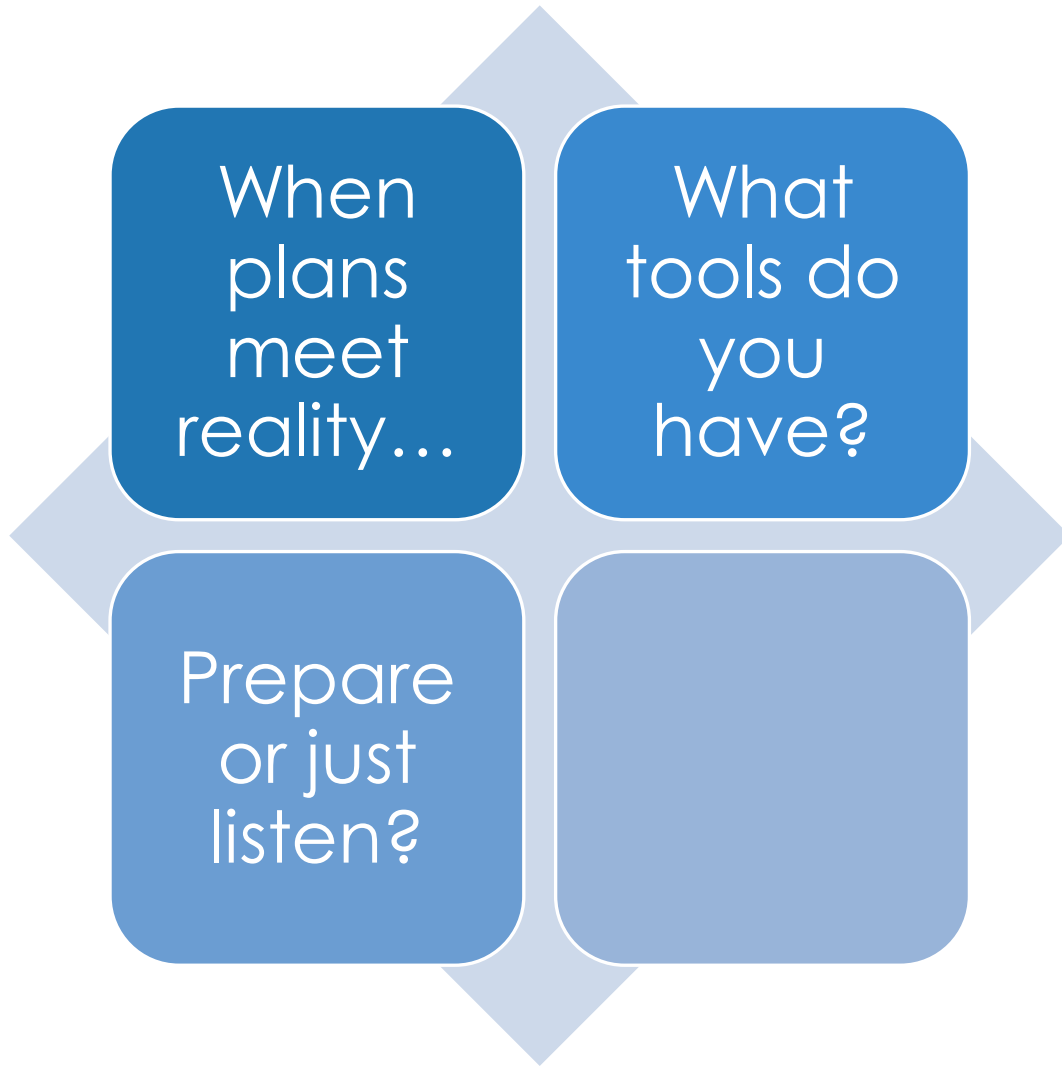
- Technical Advisory Committee
- Literature Review
- Discussions with Federal staff and organizations that support Tribal transportation planning
- Suggestions gathered through meetings like this

Seeking diverse perspectives

- Geographic distribution
- Size of Tribe/transportation program
- Use of consultants/in-house staff
- Leadership and staff perspectives
- Extent of planning activities

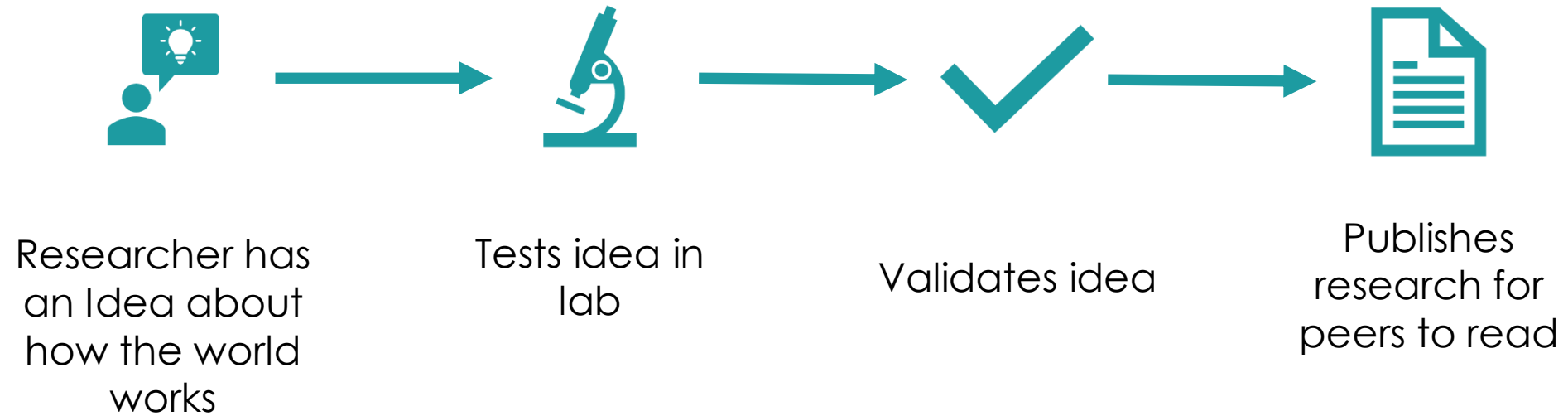
Other Considerations





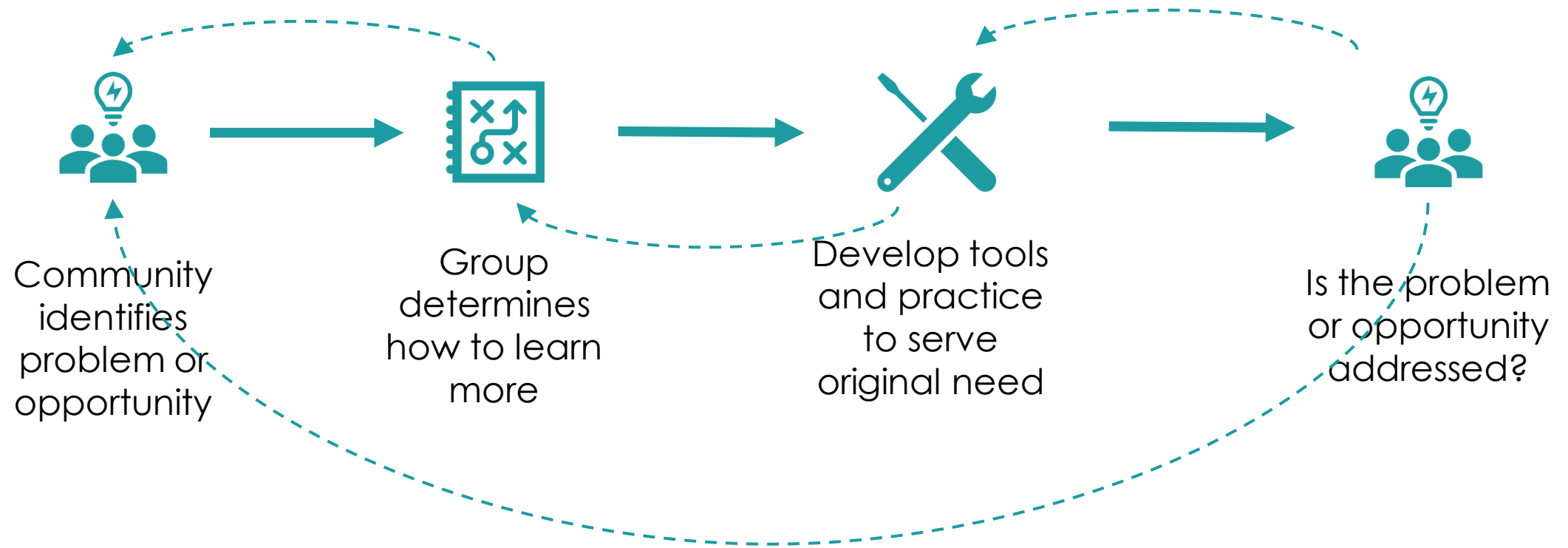
Other Considerations

Academic Research Approach

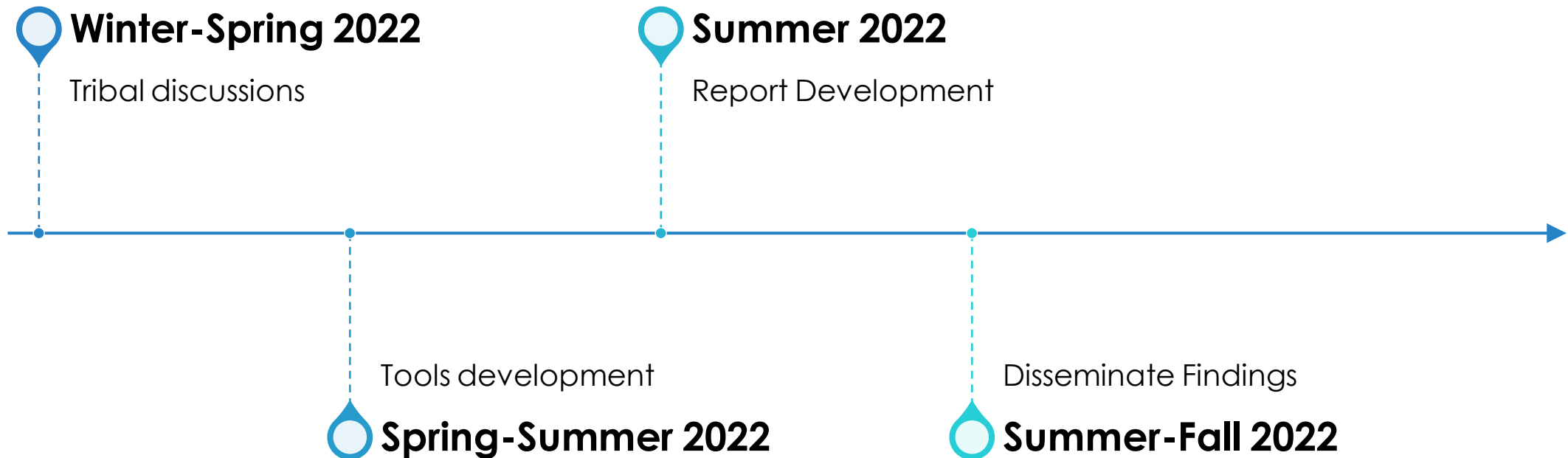


Not our approach

Applied Research Approach



Where we are going





Contact

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